

Increasing the Foodgrains Production

4584. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian farms were producing one tonne of foodgrains in per hectare of land when we had all the investment in terms of irrigation, fertilizer and high yielding varieties of seeds;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the present challenge is to get another tonne of foodgrains from the same farms while the land is shrinking and soil and water quality is degrading; and

(c) if so, what are Government's plans to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The productivity of foodgrain crops in recent years have been estimated as follows:

| Year | Productivity Kg./Hectare |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1996-97 | 1614 |
| 1997-98 | 1552 |
| 1998-99 | 1627 |
| 1999-2000 | 1697 |

The foodgrain crops include rice, wheat, coarse cereals, maize and pulses. The productivity of rice and wheat is about 2 tonnes and 2.6 tonnes per hectare respectively, but the productivity of coarse cereals is slightly above than one tonne hectare because it is largely grown under rainfed conditions. The productivity of pulses is about 0.6 tonne per hectare because of damage due to insect pests and diseases and its largely being grown under rainfed conditions and on marginal lands.

(b) and (c) For increasing the production and productivity food-grain crops Centrally Sponsored and Centre Sector Schemes on rice, wheat and coarse cereals were implemented. Besides Technology Mission on Pulses is functioning for over all development of pulses crops in India through implementation of National Pulse Development Programme. With a view to provide flexibility, to the States schemes on rice, wheat and coarse cereals have been sub-

summed under Macro-Management mode to adopt regionally differentiated technology suited to agro-climatic conditions of different States and Union Territories.

Bottling and sale of coconut water

4585. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tender coconut water is more hygienic and contains more protein than mineral water;

(b) whether the tender coconut water is also cheaper than mineral water;

(c) whether new technology has been developed in the country, like mineral water, for bottling and sale of tender coconut water for general consumption;

(d) whether Karnataka and other States in the country are producing large quantity of tender coconut; and

(e) if so, what steps Government propose to take for promotion of tender coconut water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Tender coconut water has natural taste and flavour and contains sugars, minerals, vitamins and proteins. Tender coconut water also contains enzymes in minute quantities.

(b) Same volume of tender coconut water is costlier than mineral water.

(c) The Coconut Development Board in collaboration with the Defence Food Research Laboratory has developed technology for preservation and packing of tender coconut water in pouches and cans. This technology has already been transferred to five entrepreneurs, out of which, one of them has already set up the unit in Karnataka with capacity of 10,000 nuts per day at a total project cost of Rs.75.00 lakhs. The product has already been launched in the market and the price is Rs.12.00 for a pouch of 250 ml.